

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HARRIS RANCH
Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2005**

Members Attending

Verne Crookshanks
Jon Zaninovich
Pete Dinkler
Stephen Patricio
Mike Gardoni
Jerry Prieto, Jr.
Robert Ferini, Jr.
Jim Simonian

CDFA Representatives

Rick Jensen
Gary Manning
Stacey Hughes
Steve Patton
Susan Shelton

Interested Parties

Tom Oliveri, WGA
Angela Godwin,
Riverside County

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Verne Crookshanks called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Gary Manning called the roll and a quorum was established. The meeting convened.

ITEM 2: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Gary Manning announced that a new chair and vice chair needed to be appointed. He explained that Verne Crookshanks is the current chair and Stephen Patricio is the current vice chair.

Pete Dinkler nominated Stephen Patricio. Stephen declined the nomination.

MOTION: Stephen Patricio moved to nominate and appoint Jim Simonian as chair. John Zaninovich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Pete Dinkler moved to nominate and appoint Stephen Patricio as vice chair. Robert Ferini seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS

Gary Manning stated that Tony Wollerman has retired and will no longer be serving on the committee. The Standardization Advisory Committee now has six vacancies. The committee has openings for representative commodity members for fresh fruit (oranges), fresh fruit (apples), fresh vegetables (lettuce), fresh vegetables (broccoli,

tomatoes, & lettuce), other vegetables (potatoes), and other vegetables (mixed vegetables).

Gary encouraged the committee members to recommend those they think would be interested in joining the committee. Additionally, Pete Dinkler and Jim Simonian will be up for reappointment on August 31, 2005.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2004 AND OCTOBER 26, 2004 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Stephen Patricio moved to accept the minutes for March 18, 2004 and October 26, 2004 as submitted. Verne Crookshanks seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: REGULATION AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Gary Manning updated the committee on regulations/legislation that are currently in process.

The fresh tomato standards are currently in the Department and have not yet gone out for public comment. This regulation would:

- Add dirt and foreign material as a free from defect.
- Tomatoes to be marked with grower and lot identification codes.
- All handlers of tomatoes to be registered with the Department, and upon request from an inspector, provide the field location, grower, harvest date, pack date, transporter, and purchaser of packed tomatoes.

Citrus Mutual has proposed legislation AB 85. This legislation would:

- Repeal the orange crop survey assessment and include with the Navel and Valencia assessment.
- Allow mandarin producers, upon their request, to be included in the program.
- Provides that no assessment be collected if there is no inspection program or crop survey.
- Expand the authority of the Committee to allow them to recommend crop and acreage surveys.
- Permit the Committee to establish the minimum reserve amount.

Assembly Member Parra has recently introduced the administrative penalty legislation AB 520, previously AB 869. This bill would give the County Agricultural Commissioners

the authority to impose fines through an administrative civil penalty process, thus bypassing the current requirement that violations go through the DA's office.

MOTION: Jerry Prieto moved to have the committee write and send an updated letter in support of AB 520. Stephen Patricio seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6: EXPERIMENTAL CONTAINER AUDIT

Stacey Hughes passed out a copy of the Summary of Experimental Permit Audits for 2004-2005. Fresno County and the State have audited 45 permits. Three were expired, seven were unused, four were used for master containers, and four were issued for commodities not requiring a permit. No non-compliances were issued. Kern County is in the process of performing their audits.

ITEM 7: COUNTY CONTRACT UPDATE AND 2004/05 PROPOSALS

Gary Manning gave each committee member a copy of the County Cost Comparison. Most counties will be maintaining or cutting their hours so that the contract fee does not increase significantly for the 2005-2006 year. The proposed contract amount is \$541,863.33; this is an increase from last year of \$35,644.90. However, overall inspection hours will be decreased by approximately 7%.

The committee discussed container permits. It was decided that up to 50 requests would be handled within the State. However, if there were more than 50 requests then County assistance would be requested.

MOTION: Stephen Patricio moved to approve the 2005/06 county budget of \$541,863.33. Verne Crookshanks seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 8: STATE AND COUNTY ENFORCEMENT RESULTS

Gary Manning gave each committee member a handout that reported the enforcement hours from January 2004 through January 2005. The totals were broken down by month, district, and how the time was spent (i.e. field work, office work, training, travel, etc.). The following totals were reported:

Total Hours	9,510.75
Total Containers Inspected	6,521,666
Total Containers Rejected	232,564
Percent Rejected	3.57%

ITEM 9: BUDGET STATUS REPORT

A. FISCAL YEAR 04/05 CLOSING

Gary Manning distributed a copy of the Standardization Program Projection and Proposals. As of February 23, 2005 the total operating expenses for 2004/2005 were projected to be \$1,434,815.

B. REVENUE AND FUND BALANCE

Revenue Collected in 2003/04:	\$1,035,190
Ending Ag. Fund Cash Reserve (as of 6/30/04)	\$2,168,230
Trust Fund Balance (as of 6/30/04)	\$283,579

C. FISCAL YEAR 05/06 PROPOSAL

The proposed budget for 2005/2006 is \$1,680,046. Gary explained that this includes funding a 30-day operation of Wheeler Ridge.

The committee discussed the positive aspect of opening the Wheeler Ridge inland area station on a spot basis. Discussion continued on the possibility of opening additional inland stations (such as Banning) on a spot basis as well. It was agreed that the possibility of opening any station, as needed, should be considered and that the results of opening the Wheeler Ridge station would be used as a test.

MOTION: Pete Dinkler moved to accept the budget as proposed. Verne Crookshanks seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS

Rick Jensen announced that this is Verne Crookshanks' last meeting as he has termed out. Rick thanked Verne for his many years of service to the Standardization Program. He then presented Verne with an engraved fruit knife as a token of the Department's appreciation.

Mike Gardoni suggested that the committee meet in Monterey or Santa Maria for the next meeting.

ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled as needed in September or October. Once the date and place of the next meeting is set, Gary will inform the committee.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary Manning, Program Supervisor
Standardization Program
Inspection and Compliance Branch

GM/ss